

Written by Aron Fernando It was New Year's Eve, the streets were lit, people were in joy awaiting the New Year, and Mr. Jacob was at the Woelfel Skyscraper hotel enjoying himself like he does in every New year.

While he was dancing, he saw this beautiful young lady, her perfect look and mesmerizing eyes caught every eye in that place, and it didn't fail to catch Jacob's sight. Jacob was impressed at first sight and didn't take his eyes off her from then. She was all in style and class and she took her drink and was having it, Jacob slowly approached her and to his surprise she caught him staring at her and she looked straight into his eyes and showed a gesture to come closer

Once he came closer, she asked "you wanna dance" and Jacob's face bloomed with a smile and he gave her his hand, they began to dance. It was 2 minutes to New year and she took him to the balcony with her moves and got close to him as if she is going to kiss him and whispered in his ears and suddenly Jacob's eyes widened in fear and before he could say a word her nails pierced his throat and at the stroke of 12, Jacob fell hanging from the balcony and hung to the rhythm of the clock's pendulum.

Before the crowd gathered around the tragedy the lady slowly sneaked through the hotel, got into a lift wiped her bloody fingers and as people who saw the body from outside rushed inside, she used the crowd to sneak out of the Skyscraper and went away.

In a while the investigators arrived at the place and it was the first case for Mr. Chase who was the newly appointed crime investigation officer and he was certainly shocked by the way the victim was killed in a public gathering and he started wondering about the ability of the killer who did such a murder with ease and as left the place so quietly.

He began to search the victim's body and the place around the victim's body and then his assistant grace brought him a small blood-stained note which was found in the shirt pocket of the victim. He took it to read, he was shocked at first glance as the note had the words,

"Welcome Mr. Chase, see you soon"

Followed by 3 blood dots and on the back a series of scribbles. The whole crew was in astonishment as how the killer knew his name and know he is going to take the case, as he was transferred to this place by an overnight decision and no one knew it **except** the killer.

After reading the note Mr. Chase murmured saying

"you want to see me soon ha, so do I"

And then he and his crew left the place

The next day after the incident Mr. Chase was left with a great number of questions in his head running backward and forward in his mind. The question that flashed in his mind the most was "How did the killer know me?" It was unclear to him as, none of the people in the city or the officials knew he was transferred, and he slammed the table asking the question again and again.

In a while his assistant Grace called him to investigate the murder. They started to analyze the background of the victim, the face of the victim disturbed him bringing him unclear flashes of some incident and the faces in the scene was unclear, But he didn't give

attention to those unnecessary questions and rather he started investigating about the murder, what was the motive of the murderer as the victim Mr. Jacob was a complete gentleman who came to this city a number of years ago and he didn't have any crime record as well, He started to inquire about the murderer but no one knew what happened there.

Slowly it started to become a complete maze where he had no idea where to run, he went to every extent and came back empty handed. In all these confusions the first clue was found. Once the autopsy was done the doctors said that the killer has killed him by piercing her nails through his neck and then

hanged him from the balcony and the doctors confirmed that the nails belong to a female and it came as the first clue and stress buster for Mr. Chase

Then he informed his crew about this and said that they need to hunt down a lion'ess' and then he went to his room and started rolling around the room in his chair thinking about the case

Several days passed and Mr. Chase still couldn't find another clue to get close to the murderer. The clue that gave him hope started to haunt him as there are no records of woman murderers in the city to be suspected and killing in such a manner showed that the woman must be having a personal vengeance and it is not for money, property or anything else.

With all these information clues and uncleared doubts, he forgot his day to day activities and was frustrated and irritated from sunrise to sunset. One day all the officers left the office and he decided to spend the night there, and while he was thinking unknowingly he fell asleep and he suddenly woke up startling

to the telephone ring and wiped his eyes and picked the call, and said "Hello" and before he could say the next word a quick response came from the other side in a lady's voice and it said "Hello Mr.Chase how have you been, see you soon" He had no idea who it was but a second later he recognized the words spoken were those on the note he found at the Jacob's shirt, and he found out that it was the lady but at the same time the strange feeling and headache started to him back after hearing the voice and this time the faded scene with unclear faces flashed in his mind and he heard the same voice in the vision screaming his name, by the time he came out of the vision and said

"hey!" The call got disconnected and by the time he kept the phone with confusion and fear another call rang making him startle again and this time, It was a trembling voice from the other side, it said "Sir... sir I am working at the state skyscraper hotel, One of our customers have been killed and hung outside the balcony" Chase in utmost panic said him to stay at the place he is and not to let people inside and he quickly called his crew to the office and all rushed to the spot with his crew.

At first sight he found out that it Is the lady again who has done it as the victim was killed in the same style as Jacob's murder. The victim's face from uncovered and his haunting feeling and headache started to hit him back with those weird flashes and once again he ignored the feeling and inquired about the victim. The victim's name was Mr. Victor and he too was a gentleman who got settled in this city a couple of years ago. Chase didn't find any extra clues from the new murder, but he got a new note and this time it had

"Missed me!" and in the back it had a unrecognizable image and two blood dots. Chase got frustrated and crumbled the note and threw it.

The next day the guy who gave the information was called for inquiry and the officials inquired him on who Mr. Victor spoke at the hotel last, the worker took time and then said some stammering that Mr. Victor was really upset from the time he entered the bar and spoke to none, Then Chase insisted him to think harder and then he took some more time and quickly recalled what he saw and said "A lady, yes he spoke to a lady and in a while they were missing and when I went to balcony to get the order Mr. Victor was hanging and then Chase curiously asked whether the worker saw the lady but he said that she was wearing a large hat and suddenly he

added "Sir you can check our CCTV cameras we have just installed them last week.

That made Chase excited and he took the worker with him and hurried to the hotel with the crew.

Mr. Chase and the worker reached the hotel and the worker took chase to the control room and they started checking the footages. The footages ran frame by frame and suddenly she came, the lady entered the scene and all eyes in the room were fixed to the lady and a moment of silence prevailed, The lady was acting casual and took her seat in front of Victor and Victor then started to talk to her and in a while she stands up and calls him to dance and takes him to the balcony so they quickly changed to the balcony camera in panic and it was not so clear as they both were a little far from the camera, even though their faces were not clear their actions were seen,

the lady got close to Victor and no one could just believe what they saw the charming lady whispered into victor's ears and before he could react she pressed her nails into his neck and tied him to a rope quickly and threw him out of the balcony and quietly got into the lift and went away.

The footage gave hope some hope and sigh of relief, but it was all it was able to give it didn't give any considerable clues to find the killer. So he went to his office and thought that why not they inquire about the victims, so he gathered both of the victim's details and checked them simultaneously to find out any tiny common detail, there was

indeed a detail but not tiny it was a major connection, the connection was that they both were partners in the Empire Skyscraper hotel which was the first ever built Skyscraper in the country 5 years ago and were close friends as well but never met after a tragic event that happened in the hotel, he tried to find the details of the Empire building case but he couldn't as his head Mr. George has said that the file was deleted from the system by someone long ago, even though it made him frustrated he had other reasons to move forward in the case so he started to concentrate on them, After the inquiry he clearly found out that the mysterious lady is targeting the people

related to the Empire hotel he then inquired about the partners of that hotel 5 years ago, the list loaded and he checked one by one and the first two was already dead and there was one more partner and Chase's veins chilled for a second because it was none other than Mr. George his head officer whom he considered as his mentor and he was major reason for chase to hold the post he is holding.

In panic chase asked grace where Mr. George is, and she said that he was really upset the past weeks and he didn't come to office today, then Chase quickly picked up his mobile phone and dialed George, to every ring Chase's

heart beat rose and after 4 rings, finally George answered the call, in serious panic chase spoke "Si..sir whe.. where" there was much noise from the other side and George repeatedly asked chase to repeat what he said chase lost his patience and in tension screamed asking where he was and finally he answered his question saying "Oh chase I'm at the Florida skyscraper hotel in a friend's party" Chase's eyes widened in fear as he knew that George is the next Target and he is at the lady's favorite killing spot, Chase in serious panic started to warn George but suddenly the call got disconnected and he dialed again and his frustration increased further more as Mr.

George's phone got switched off, he slammed the phone down and rushed to the hotel with grace.

While he was nearing the hotel, he saw George at the balcony with someone who chase couldn't see as George was blocking his view and the next second that someone became visible and as expected it was the lady, Chase lost his patience and jumped off

Chase lost his patience and jumped off the car and ran into the building but by the time he reached the place she had already succeeded; all that chase could do was see his beloved mentor hang dead. Chase's eyes couldn't control the tears and he fell to his knees weeping in guilt and disappointment.

Grace got down from the car a while after chase ran into the building and she ran towards the building as she was running towards the hotel she saw a strange lady Making her way out of the hotel in a suspicious way keeping her head down and looking left and right, grace slowed down and slowly went closer to the lady, she spotted grace following her and she quickly started running and grace started chasing her

The lady was really quick and went missing in a while, Grace didn't stop she ran as fast as she could and suddenly

found herself in an old building with complete darkness and rays of moonlight piercing through broken roof being the only source of light, she stopped for a second and looked around searching the lady suddenly she startled as something passed by her rapidly, she quickly pulled her gun and pointed at the thing that passed her, she breathed out with relief as it was just a bat, then she kept her gun back and turned around, the lady was standing right in front of her,

Grace fell back in fear and then the lady pulled out a knife and came towards grace and raised the knife to stab her, grace closed her eyes in fear and screamed saying "Mrs. Chase don't kill me"

A great silence prevailed, and grace felt that nothing has nothing happened to her and she slowly opened her eyes and she found the lady frozen with the raised knife in hand and she dropped the knife and questioned grace

"How do you know me!?"

Grace then slowly stood up and said "yes, I know you, Mrs. Madonna chase"

Madonna exclaimed in curiosity "but how?"

Then grace said, "last night I was leaving office late and I saw Mr. George taking out a old file from his locker and came out of his room in tension and rushed out of

the office but he did not notice a set of papers falling from the file, after he went out I went and picked the papers to return it to him but I was shocked to see your name as Mrs. Madonna chase as I didn't know chase was even married, I read your paper and I found out that you are a victim of the Empire Building case but I couldn't find any detail about the case in that paper.

Madonna suddenly questioned but how did she recognize her.

Then Grace said "your famous rose tattoo behind your neck which I saw in your photo in the file helped me to recognize you, while I was chasing you" Then she added "But you looked really different in the picture than now, what happened to you Madonna?"

She questioned continuously asking,

"What is the Empire Building Case?"

"Where were you all these years?"

"What made a beauty like you turn into a killing beast!!?

Without letting Madonna speak.

After hearing all those questions from grace Madonna slowly moved forward and started to tell her story....

Madonna then started to say her story

"Yes Grace I was beautiful once... but you don't know what it cost" saying these she pulled her face and her skin mask fell and she slowly turned towards grace and grace stood in shock as the face she saw was completely destructed with burnt marks all over the face and grace in shock asked her again

"What Happened!! Madonna?"

Then she said "I lost my father at a young age and the burden of my family was kept on my shoulders, My beauty and my dance helped me to carry my family forward and feed them every day, I was working at a small hotel and one day,

Jacob came to that hotel and he was really impressed by my dance and after my show was over he came to the backstage and gave me a job offer to do shows in the Empire Building hotel, I was really happy at the offer and said yes the next second and Jacob asked me to come to the hotel next day.

The next day rose as the happiest day in my life, I got dressed in my best dress and went to the Empire Hotel and I was warmly welcomed by Jacob and his fellow partners Mr. Victor and then they took me to the owner's office, Mr. Chan who was the owner of the hotel welcomed me with much

pleasure and asked me to start the show that day itself.

They prepared a large stage and a great announcement to my show and a large group of people came to witness the show and after the show was done everyone who watched the show appreciated me and I was greatly appreciated by Mr. Chan.

show was held a large group of people came to the hotel just to watch the show and the hotel gained even more popularity and income by me, the owner was really happy and often gave me gifts and bonus salaries. One day Mr. George brought this charming young man chase

with him to the show and introduced him to me. He really liked me, and I liked him too, soon we became friends and after some time we started dating and we were really happy in each other's company and both of us exchanged love and care between us and my life became a total bliss. I got enough money to look after my family and I got chase to love me and take care of me. One day chase took me to the Empire Building's balcony and suddenly proposed me and I stood there with tears of happiness saying yes to him. In a few days we got married and all three partners attended the wedding, but Chan didn't, and I didn't know why, The partners acted a little weird as if they are

hiding something and didn't talk as they usually did. Our wedding day was indeed a happy day for us, and thereafter our married life began in a new house and every single day we woke up to each other and lived happy.

But....

All these didn't last long.

One day Mr. Chan called me to his office after a show and when I went in he acted very awkwardly and suddenly knelt down and said that he loves me and he wants to marry me, I got angry and shouted at him for doing such a thing knowing that I'm married to chase, he tried to calm me down saying that he will give anything I

wish for and do whatever I wish, I got really angry and shouted at him saying that I really respected him but he acted so cheap, then I left the hotel and didn't go to any shows from then.

A couple of weeks later Chan and his partners came to our house and Mr. Chan apologized for his mistake and told me to forget everything and come back and he invited us to the Valentine's day party sponsored by him. We thought that he has realized his mistake and we attended the party

As we entered the hotel, we were warmly welcomed, and Chan and his partners

took us to a private cabin saying it was VIP section and there only we both were there with Chan and his partners.

All of them spoke nicely and we were having fun making jokes.

In a while Chan got drunk and the tone of his voice changed and started saying how much he loved me, and Mr. George silently took Chase out of the room, Chase found that the things were not alright, he unwillingly went out looking backwards at me again and again, but George forcefully took him out.

Chan's tone changed even more and then he angrily said breaking the glass in his hand that he loved me so much, but I couldn't accept his proposal.

Suddenly he turned towards me in aggression and I knew it is not alright and I in fear stood up and walked backwards calling chase,

Then suddenly victor caught me from behind and I screamed out to chase and he came running in pushing George who was holding him and suddenly stood froze with his hand on his back head as Jacob stroke him with a iron rod from behind and chase fell on knees in front of me in tears and a I couldn't reach him as victor was holding me tight and then Chan took a piece of wire from his side and came close to me with a aggressive

face and said, " Madonna, you know something, I simply hate things I couldn't afford" and with a weird smile on his face said "And I don't like watching some other having it as their own" saying those he quickly wined the wire around my neck and started choking me and I screamed out to chase and he in half conscious stood up saying them to leave me and he with all his energy came towards me but Chan kicked him hard that he fell again with no strength and didn't and he wasn't satisfied with it he took the rod from Jacob and slammed him again but then George saved chase from another stroke and took chase to aside then Chan tightened the wire even

more and pushed me aside and then victor brought a jar with hot liquid and Chan looked at me with a smile and threw the liquid on my face, It burned my face completely and I fell down covering my face in pain and I screamed in pain but all of them stood standing laughing at me and I was on the floor helplessly and In a while they all got really drunk and I used all my strength to run out of the place, they came chasing but they fell halfway as they were drunk and I went out of the hotel"

Grace stood with tears listening to Madonna's story and she asked Whether they left her afterwards

Madonna smiled and said "How can they leave me grace"

Then Grace said, "Then what did they do"
Then Madonna said, "They sent some
thugs to kill me and the head of the group
was a little kind hearted guy, I pleaded in
front of me and I told him my story he
was really taken back and took pity on me
and said that he will not say Chan that
they spared me and he also said to ask
him if I needed any help"

I had a moment of relief knowing that humanity still has its roots in this world"

I went away from the city from then.

Then grace asked what happened to chase after that If he is alive why she didn't contact him.

Madonna then said,

"you think I did not contact chase I did....
I went with this destructed face thinking how he would cry for me but when I met him the first thing, he did was not hug me and cry for me but ask who I was,

I expected tears in his eyes but rather he brought tears in mine, I with tears said that I was Madonna his wife, then a voice from my back said that he isn't married yet, It was George saying that he held me from back and dragged me out saying "you are at the wrong place mam" I shook

my legs and hands refusing to leave but he dragged me out of the place and Chase was looking at me in confusion, George threw me out of the office and said "he won't remember me as they have erased my memory off his brain"

Then and there my one and only hope got scattered like dust.

Then I started living in hiding secretly following Chase all these years in the hope that one day he would regain his memory.

Grace got really moved on by Madonna's story and wanted to help her.

So, he rushed from the place telling that she is going to tell chase everything and try to bring his memory back

Madonna warned her not to, but Grace did not listen to her she rushed from the place.

On the way she dialed Chase's Office number to say him all what she heard now,

She called and once the call got connected, she told everything about Madonna to make Chase remember his past, but she didn't listen any response from the other side and grace questioned whether chase is still on the line, after a great pause a voice replied,

"So, you got to know about Madonna, right?"

Grace got really confused and asked, "Who are you?"

"Ah well... I'm Mr. Chan" said the voice.

Grace's eyes widened in shock and remained silent,

"Give my regards to my partners, Grace" said Chan and the phone got disconnected.

Grace kept the phone in complete fear and disappointed and started to think why he said to give regards to his partners who are already dead, She raised her head to see the road ahead and saw a car speeding towards her and before she could move.

The car knocked Grace.

When Chase entered his room he saw Chan keeping his phone down and questioned Chan asking who he was and why is he speaking on his phone, Chan stood up and greeted Chase and said that someone called to inform that his assistant has met with an accident, Chase was shocked to hear this and he went to see grace asking Chan to wait.

He went to the spot and found grace half dead struggling to breathe he ran to her and called the stretcher to carry grace to the ambulance but when they took grace into the ambulance, she was already dead. Chase broke into tears and disappointedly came back to his office.

Chase came to his room heart broken and asked who Chan was and what he wanted, Then Chan said that he was Chan the owner of the Empire hotel and he said that he is there to help him catch the killer.

Chase paused for a second and asked "how are you going to help me find her"

Then Chan said, "All my former partners are dead and I'm her next target and If you watch over me, you can catch her when she comes to kill me"

Chase found this as a golden ticket and agreed to protect him for the next few days.

It was Valentine's Day and a grand party was organized in the Empire Hotel and Chan attended the party as well and as said Chase and his officers attended the party as general people and attended the party as couples and silently observed the situation keeping an eye on Chan.

A grand show was held, and several dancers displayed their show one by one and the final dance was to be done by the famous dancer "The Masker". All awaited the Masker's show and finally the show started, and the Masker performed like he has never done before, he was spectacular to watch. In the middle of the show the masker and his dancers got down from the stage and

invited Chan to the stage and Chan joined them, Chase went to accompany Chan but as Chan said that Its alright Chase remained down and the final part of the show started and beats got faster and none of them could control their feet and the Masker and his Dancers started dancing around Chan showing him as the center figure and suddenly the masker threw something on the floor and the place was filled with smoke and Chase and his crew got confused and was looking for Chan.

When the smoke cleared out, the stage was empty none of the dancers were there including Mr. Chan, Chase knew that something's wrong and he and

his crew started searching Chan removing their disguise and the general public got scared and ran away.

Chan was really confused on what happened and when he opened his eye after clearing it, He found himself on top cliff of the Empire Building and he eyes expanded in fear and when he turned around The masker was standing right in front of him and before Chan could react he tied a loop of rope around Chan's neck and kicked him of the cliff and held the rope and Chan was almost off the edge only his toes were on the edge and Chan could do nothing because he was out of his balance and he was held without falling by the masker.

Chan pleaded to let him alive and he'll give anything he wanted. The masker removed his mask and asked in anger,

"Can you give me my life back?"

Chan eye's widened in fear as it was his long-lost friend, Mrs. Madonna Chase.

Chan pleaded and asked forgiveness for what he did to her and asked her to spare his life.

By the time Chase and his officers reached the spot and they shot the sky to warn her and keeping her at aim said her to leave him.

Chan's smile was back on his face and he said,

"I'm not like those fools Madonna"

Saying that he shouted to Chase saying him,

"Mr. Chase here is the killer you are searching for come catch her"

Madonna pulled him and let him go and surrendered raising her hands.

Chan went near chase and said him to arrest her and turned around smiling at Madonna.

Click! The handcuff was pressed,

But handcuffed hands were not Madonna's but Chan's.

Chan screamed at Chase saying,

"You fool handcuff the killer not me"

Chase smiled at Chan and said,

"That's what I have done sir"

And he added,

"By the way she is not a killer, she is my wife Mrs. Madonna Chase"

Chan was shocked and speechless, and he murmured to himself,

"It's impossible"

And he questioned Chase

"Bu but...How did you remember everything?"

"I even killed Grace who tried to tell you everything"

"But How come you knew everything"

Said Chan in frustration spoiling the truth in front of the officers,

Chase was shocked for a second

And he slowly moved towards in anger Chan reloading the gun and then,

He punched him right on his face and kicked him back and Madonna quickly tied his neck and caught his throat and said,

"Give my regards to your partners"

Saying those she pushed him

And Chase aimed at him and said

"Grace did her job and you don't deserve an explanation"

Saying those he fired his gun twice and Chan fell from the building screaming and hung breathing his last.

What really happened was.....

When Grace was a minute away from her death in the ambulance, she being able to barely breathe gave the notes they found at the 2 murders and said Chase to kill "HIM" and before she could speak the next word she was no more.

Chase was really confused by her last words which was "kill HIM", it was confusing as everyone knew that the killer they are searching is a lady, with the confusion and disappointment Chase went to his office and met Chan and after he went Chase started crushing his mind looking at the notes and thinking about grace's last words, He took the note which he got from George's murder and read all three one by one and still didn't

get anything and in frustration threw them on the table and started thinking again, While he was thinking spinning his pen, the pen fell under the table and when Chase went under the table to get the pen and looked and as it is a glass table he saw the backside of the notes together and the random scribbles in each note together gave a image and Chase quickly got those notes and placed them correctly in order of the murders and turned them the other way and his jaws dropped as they showed a sketch of an old house which brought him the feeling he was getting the past few days and this time in his traces of memory he got unclear images of him holding

someone's hand and looking at a house which was like the house he just saw and Chase couldn't ignore the feeling this time so he went out to look for this house he just saw.

He rode through the city for hours and didn't find any house like the house he saw in the note.

The disappointed Chase parked his car aside a street and sat on the pavement with no hope and he fell asleep in a while and suddenly was woken up by a stone which hit his head and he startled and looked around searching the person the who threw the stone and he saw someone hiding behind the bush looking at him and when he stood up the person

quickly started running and Chase started running behind her and in a while the person went out of sight and something he never expected came into his sight, right in front of him stood the house he was searching for the past few past hours and he forgot about the person and slowly moved forward to enter the house when he entered the house and something quickly passed by his eyes and he didn't know what as it was completely dark and chase quickly took out his gun and searched the strange thing that passed him and suddenly a crying voice came somewhere from the house saying,

[&]quot;Welcome Home Chase"

It was the same voice he heard over the phone a couple of days and he got the memory traces again and this time he couldn't bare it as the usual headache he gets got worse this time and he knelt down closing his eyes and holding his head and in a while suddenly the voice uttered again saying his name and when he slowly opened the eyes and found the whole house fully lit and he was stunned to see his photos hanging on the wall not alone but with a lady, and suddenly all the traces he got all these time got clear this time and he saw the scenes of marrying Madonna, living with her, and finally the scene of his love being tortured in the hands of Chan and his partners and

tears started flowing when he totally reclaimed his memory and he fell on his knees crying and he heard the voice once more and when he raised his head he saw Madonna standing in front of him and she said crying "It's me chase your Madonna" Chase was shocked and he couldn't control himself he ran to her and hugged her tightly and both couldn't stop crying for a while and then Chase asked Madonna, "Why didn't you come to me all these years"

She said," I came chase.

Chase exclaimed, "What!!"

Then she said, "George erased your memory of meeting, me marrying me and

when I came you didn't know and me and I was chased from the place"

Then chase questioned, "Then what made you come to me now"

Then she said, "I was following you all the past years and recently I put a photo of me on the way you walked and all these years you didn't even think to pick the photo and last year when I did the same thing to my surprise you took the photo and started to look at it and suddenly you closed your eyes and held your head with your hand as if you got a headache and I understood that you are getting some sort of a pain when you see the things that are erased out of your mind and found that those things are affecting your

mind, and fortunately you got transferred to the city where all the partners were and I used the opportunity to seek revenge and at the same time to bring back your memory"

Then Chase asked, "You made me search you like mad without me knowing you are my wife is it" smiling at her and she smiled back at him and then in a while Chase said that even after all this Chan came to him to seek protection and Chase hurriedly stood up saying that he is going to kill Chan but Madonna said that she has another plan and she said Chase to remain as if he didn't get his memory back and they planned to finish him at his own place.

Let's Get back on track

Chase closed the case and deleted the case from history.

And Chase took Madonna tying her eyes to her new place and when he untied her.

She had tears of joy in her eyes as the house they lived happily before her life changed stood in front of her fully renovated fresh and new as it was when they first came, and they happily lived there the rest of their life...